

Second Meeting of the Hotel Environmental Education and Recognition Program
Kahala Mandarin Oriental
June 26, 2002

The second meeting of the Hotel Environmental Education and Recognition Program was held on June 26, 2002. The Kahala Mandarin Oriental provided the superb conference room and facilities. Suzanne Hatje, General Manager of the Kahala Mandarin Oriental started the meeting by welcoming the participants to their property.

Murray Towill, President of the Hawaii Hotel Association, also welcomed the group. Mr. Towill encouraged the group to have additional information exchange meetings and mentioned that the HHA could be used as a vehicle to broaden the reach and membership of the environmental group. The Chamber, DBEDT, DOH and other partners look forward to working with the HHA.

The Chamber summarized the background and purpose of the program for the new members that attended. Key was information exchange between the hotels, where the best practices to conserve water, energy, and reduce wastes are freely exchanged. Examples of presentations from the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Kahala Mandarin and Mauna Lani hotels were provided.

Also important to the program was the potential for partnerships between the hotel members, government agencies and other companies. A potential partnership was discussed in which water conservation cards could be printed that give guests at the hotel the option of not having their towels and linens washed every day. A 313-room hotel used these cards to save over 2 million gallons of water and 10,00 pounds of detergent per year. Hawaii has over 72,000 hotel rooms in the State. AAA and Mobil provided tips on how to print the cards and keep the high star rating and image of the hotel.

The Boards of Water Supply from Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai were in attendance for the meeting. They expressed interest in the potential partnership and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply is developing a program to provide grants to print the cards. Denise De-Costa of the Board of Water Supply is forming a steering committee to guide the development of the grant program.

Jonathan Suzuki of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply reviewed their new large meter program, where monitors are placed at critical junctures along a water distribution system to detect leaks 24 hours per day. As the project develops, hotels may be able to take advantage of the program.

Todd Condon of Kahala Mandarin reviewed the conservation checklist for hotels that was put together by Marlyn Aguilar of the DOH. According to the Kahala Mandarin, the checklist was relatively simple to complete as long as the correct portion of the list was given to the appropriate department working in that area. By proper delegation, the list was able to be completed in less than a week and much useful information was used and implemented.

Keith Block reviewed HECO's energy rebate program, with specific emphasis on projects for the hotel industry. For capital projects in which there are energy savings, HECO will actually offer an energy rebate. The return in capital from energy savings and the rebate is often 2-5 years. Potential

projects include tinted windows, energy efficient light fixtures and air conditioners, or heat transfer systems.

Derrick Sonoda of HECO demonstrated the use of their power CD, which was handed out to all the guests. The CD explains in detail the HECO rebate program, provides calculations on the rebate, and examples of projects. To obtain additional copies of the CD, please contact HECO at DSonoda@hei.com or by calling 808.543.4763.

Upcoming Events

Gail Suzuki-Jones of DBEDT and Marlyn Aguilar of the DOH provided information on the Environmental Purchasing and Practices Conference and Vendor Expo, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, July 18, 2002. Hotel members should consider attending this useful conference. For more information, visit: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/ert/epc02